

Property - 1937

Alabama.

Birmingham, Ala. News
March 1, 1937

Death Of Negro Woman Confirms Rumor Of Riches

Death revealed that the reputation of being wealthy enjoyed by Sallie Gary, aged Negro woman, among her neighbors in the vicinity of Rickwood Park was well founded.

The aged woman had lived for years in the same house, with many locks and bolts on her doors. Residents of the vicinity had long understood there was a reason for these precautions.

Sunday morning she was found dead on the back porch of her home. Assistant County Investigator Parrish found \$1,880 in old large-size bills pinned to a belt around her waist and also found a bank book showing savings deposits totalling \$2,871.63. In addition, he found real estate deeds in her name.

County Investigator Evans returned a verdict of death by natural causes. A brother of the dead woman who lives in Kansas City was notified.

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Self-Made Man Would Mold Son in Own Image

John Claybrook, Wealthy Lumberman and Farmer Combats Wildness, Teaches Thrift to 20-Year-Old Heir.

MEMPHIS—John C. Claybrook at 66 has succeeded in making one man's life—his own—what he

Empire Builder



JOHN C. CLAYBROOK, founder of the Arkansas town bearing this name.

Washed Own Clothes

John Claybrook has been an unyielding taskmaster. Though wealthy, he sent the boy to Tuskegee Institute—and made him wash his own clothes to teach him thrift. Later he brought him back to the farm and made him superintendent over the entire set-up, which includes live stock and equipment valued at \$150,000.

To further encourage the youth to remain at home, John, who at his advanced age still supervises his own lumber business with equipment worth \$150,000 and an annual turnover of eighty thousand dollars, has provided a stadium and hired a baseball team, built a dance hall, a gambling room for the farm hands and installed motion pictures.

Married; Divorced

More than a year ago the younger Claybrook married a Memphis girl with his father's consent—but not until the matter of finances was thoroughly talked over, and the fact made clear that the young couple would live on the money the junior Claybrook earned. Everything was smooth for a while, but a clash led to divorce proceedings, now pending after action by John Claybrook in the hope of keeping his grip upon his son.

wanted it to be, but those who know the difficulties confronting him, wonder whether he can be equally successful in molding the life of his 20-year-old son, John Claybrook, Jr.

For just as the obsession to work hard and save and accumulate brought John Claybrook from poverty in Florence, Ala., to the ownership of 1200 acres of land across the river in Arkansas, so the urge to re-create himself in his son drives him today to the exclusion of all other tasks.

But the boy finds the task a hard one. In contrast to his father, he was inclined to wild-

Arkansas.

Two Chicago Youths To Inherit A Half-Million

Wealth Bequeathed By Their Mother Said To
Have Accumulated From Oil Interests
In Arkansas Farm Property

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Judge John J. O'Connell of the Cook County Probate Court approved last week the report of the City National Bank and Trust Co. as guardian of the \$500,000 estate of two youthful Chicagoans, Arthur W. and John W. Sewell. The former is 20 and will come into his inheritance next year. John is 18.

The wealth was bequeathed to the boys by their mother, Mrs. Parthenia Edith Barry Sewell who died in 1920. She had gained it through holdings in oil lands in Arkansas on a farm left her by her parents.

The estate is reported on by the bank includes twelve pieces of real estate in southern states, \$62,000 in oil royalties \$18,000 in other accumulated income, \$151,000 in bonds, and \$176,000 in mortgages described as "of doubtful value."

The boys live with their father at 4911 Vincennes Ave. The older Sewell at one time was guardian of the estate. The court removed him some years ago contending that that his investments were in some instances unwise.

He built what is said to be the finest and most modern chicken farm in America up in Michigan a short distance from Chicago. Experts testifying before the court at that time contended, however, that the chicken farm could never be made to pay because the investment and overhead were too great.

A state school in Michigan is now using it for experimental purposes. Recently, Mr. Sewell was the center of a divorce case involving separation from the boys' stepmother.

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D.C.

Prof. W. Hart
Filed Claims for

\$1,000,000

Daughter Appointed
Administratrix;
Son on WPA

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, of Illinois, introduced a bill in the House Tuesday "For the relief of the heirs of Prof. William H. H. Hart, principal of the Hart Farm School and Junior Republic for Dependent Children." The bill asks "the secretary of the Treasury to pay these heirs \$48,765.20 in full to settle all claims against the government, for costs incurred, losses sustained, services rendered, and damages suffered in the care and maintenance, education, and vocational, veterinary, mechanical, agricultural, military and civic training of certain wards of the United States under sundry mandatory acts of Congress (S. Res. 204, 58th Congress, second session), and certain contracts or quasi contracts with the Board of Children's Guardians of the District of Columbia, from November 8, 1897, to June 30, 1906."

Prof. Hart purchased a farm of 295 acres, with house, barns and other outbuildings near Fort Washington, Prince George's County, Md. He accepted boys from the District to educate and train. His capacity was about 25. He started the school in 1897 and ran until June 1906.

Prof. Hart was one of the few persons who was able to go into the U. S. Court of Claims and obtain a court decision to sue the U. S. Government.

This he did and filed claims amounting to something like a million dollars. He was his own attorney and made a masterly presentation of his case to the court.

After careful research the Court of Claims has allowed the following claims:

For personal service \$9,993.33; the wards set fire to the building April 17, 1903 and he is allowed \$8,000; on January 23, 1904, a

second fire occurred for which \$3,750.37 was allowed; \$5,000 is allowed for the damage caused by withdrawing wards and funds; \$1,000 is allowed for property clerk hire and \$21,021.50 for other losses involved, which makes the total of \$48,765.20.

Prof. Hart died January 9, 1934. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Clementine B. Hart Simkins, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who has been appointed administratrix and a son, William H. H. Hart, Jr., who lives here and is working with the WPA.

Attorney Perry W. Howard is the attorney in the case.

Prof. Hart was one of the founders of the Howard Law School and was an instructor in the school for many years.

It is said that Senator Reed Smoot at one time tried to compromise with him for \$25,000 and finally offered \$35,000. But he refused and continued to press his claim.

Congressman Mitchell says that he feels this is a worthy case of merit and he hopes to be able to secure this claim by the passage of the bill he introduced Tuesday.

DR. GRIMKE'S WILL AIDS SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS

Dr. Cooper.

Journal and Guide Bureau
WASHINGTON, D. C. — Francis J. Grimke, pastor of Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church, who died on October 11, left the bulk of his estate to institutions chiefly on public contributions and to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, for the publication of his sermons and addresses.

He bequeathed to his niece, Miss Angelina W. Grimke, only \$100. He left \$400 to the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and \$100 to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

LINCOLN GETS \$4,000

He directed the executor of his estate to sell property at 1415 Corcoran street northwest and out of the proceeds to give \$4,000 to the trustees of Lincoln University, Chester County, Pennsylvania, his alma mater.

The bequest to the trustees of Lincoln University is to be divided into two equal parts and invested and reinvested in perpetuity. One party is to be known as the Charlotte Forten Grimke Scholarship and the other as the Nancy Weston Grimke Scholarship. He directed that the income from each separate fund be given to Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Named Co-Executor
of Codicil

usually to a young man seeking an education and in need of financial assistance, who may be deemed worthy and be selected by the trustees of the university.

He bequeathed to the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, \$4,500 in promissory notes of the Shoreham Hotel Corporation, dated July 23 1934, and secured by a deed of trust on the property.

TO WRITE SKETCH

He left \$1,000 to Dr. Anna J. Cooper, a retired public school teacher, 201 T street northwest, to prepare a sketch of his deceased wife with some of her writings for publication. The publication and its profits are to belong solely to

He bequeathed to the trustees of Lincoln University all of his books, manuscripts, letters, etc., which may not be required by Dr. Woodson in preparing his writings for publication in book form.

The residue of his estate he left to Dr. Woodson to be used by him in having certain of his literary compositions published in book form, in one or more volumes.

The publication is to include his sermons, addresses, letters and tracts on the race problem and all matters pertaining to the race in general, such as his addresses on John Brown, William Lloyd Garrison, John G. Whittier and Frederick Douglass.

It is also to include his address shortly after the death of Douglass from the text, "Know ye not that a great man has fallen in Israel today?"

TO INCLUDE SERMONS

It is also to include a series of sermons on marriage, the training of children, the parable of the prodigal son, the home, and on a number of miscellaneous subjects from which selections may be made, and selections from a number of note books entitled "Stray Thoughts and Meditations," and his collection of letters to and about him.

Copies of the publication, whether in one or more volumes, are to be presented to a number of educational institutions.

In the original will dated February 25, last, Dr. Grimke appointed Dr. Woodson sole executor of his estate. In a codicil dated July 19, he appointed Charles A. Booker, 202 N. street northwest, co-executor with Dr. Woodson.

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Florida

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., TIMES-UNION
June 30, 1937

Farm Land Owned By Negroes Valued Above Five Million

Special to Times-Union.

TALLAHASSEE, June 29.—Negro representatives of the Agricultural Conservative Program and the State Extension Service have concluded at Marianna a survey of agricultural conditions among negroes, during which time they addressed three Summer schools and held 12 other meetings where they met negro farmers from 25 counties.

Here in Florida 6,792 negro farmers own 266,000 acres of land valued at \$5,750,000 said James P. Davis, head field officer of the AAA for negroes.

Headed by A. A. Turner, negro State extension agent, the visitors attended Summer schools at Florida Normal and Industrial Institute, St. Augustine; the Bethune-Cookman College at Daytona Beach, and the Florida A. & M. College at Tallahassee. Other schools visited were, Hungerford Academy at Maitland and Fessenden Academy at Martin.

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Georgia

Moultrie, Ga. Courier

February 2, 1937

ACCORDING TO ABILITY

pay. He will be a better citizen if he shares the cost of government. He will appreciate more the benefits of government that now

mean so much to the poor.

Discussing Georgia tax problems. The Thomasville Press says:

"The Negroes of Georgia own a very small per cent of ~~taxable~~ property and the tax they pay is insignificant in comparison with the benefits they receive at the hands of the government. As a class they are poor folks therefore cannot pay much of the tax burden, and many of them are becoming wards of the government at a rapid rate. To verify this statement one has only to check up on the asylums, the poor farms, and relief stations. A few of them own humble homes on which they pay a small amount of tax, and now comes the proposed homestead exemption act which will relieve them of that burden. They pay no income or inheritance tax and unless a sales tax is applied the race will be tax free with the big end of benefits falling in their laps. It is fair and just that every person pay tax in accordance with their ability, and a sale tax is the only means of reaching the Negro along with the poor white folks. A moderate sale tax is a painless pay as you go system which is commendable for both the people and the government."

We agree with The Press that "it is fair and just that every person pay taxes in accordance with his or her ability."

We think the income tax is one of the fairest taxes we have in operation. The trouble with it is that only large incomes are reached. It is not entirely fair that the man with a five thousand dollar income should pay a tax and the man receiving one thousand dollars pay none. Every man according to what he receives. A sales tax is an income tax in reverse. It is a tax on the outgo. It does not reach the fellow who takes in and never pays out. It hits heavily the man who pays out all he receives and sometimes more. We do not think much of the sop thrown to the poor man in relieving him of state taxes on his home and patch. His taxes should be light, but every man with property should

Property-1937

FIVE COLORED FAMILIES NOW OCCUPY HOMES ON PAGE BLVD. AND MORE BUY

ONE OF THE NEWLY PURCHASED HOMES

James T. Bush, well known realtor, announced that since Page boulevard was first occupied by a colored family last July, the number of residences on the street now occupied by members of the race has reached three being five families. Another has been sold and will be occupied within the next eight or ten days.

Experience No Trouble

The most recent purchasers have been Mr. and Mrs. William Richardson who bought at 4342 Page boulevard, a six and seven family flat, air-conditioned, with hardwood floors, etc., and Walter L. Skinner, Sumner High School instructor, who purchased an eight room residence at 4323 Page boulevard.

Bush stated that he now has a dozen pieces of property listed and that neither he nor the buyers has met with any hostilities since colored residents moved on the boulevard.

It is also understood that earnest money has been paid on the Jewish synagogue at 4301 Page boulevard by a colored congregation.



THE RICHARDSONS' RESIDENCE AT 4342 PAGE BOULEVARD

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New York.

Once Richest Man Behind in House Rent

Watt Terry, National
Figure, Dispossessed for
\$275 Back Pay

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Once hailed as the richest colored man in the country, Watt Terry, owner of the Terry Holding Corporation, was evicted from his offices at 2380 Seventh Avenue, last week for non-payment of rent. On complaint of the M. A. M. Holding Corporation Judge Slevin of the Tenth District Municipal Court, issued the dispossession warrant for the non-payment of \$275, which represented two months' rent on the loft and garage at the Seventh Street address.

After the ten-day period following the serving of the precept on Terry, his office equipment were moved onto the side-walk. Terry was a nationally known real estate operator with property in Brockton, Mass., and Harlem, reputedly valued at \$1,500,000. He was also named as the person carrying the largest amount of life insurance of his race in the world. His policies were said to total \$545,000.

It is said that thirty years ago, Terry was an assistant janitor at the Brockton YMCA after leaving his native log cabin where he was born of poor parentage. He came North when he was a young boy and was said to have arrived with fifteen cents in his pocket.

Encouraged by the head janitor of the Y to save \$10 of the \$40 per month he received, and to join the classes in arithmetic, literature and penmanship, Terry climbed from digging post holes, wood chopper, hostler, coachman, Pullman porter, shoe factory worker and edge setter to being the wealthiest Negro in America, in the middle '20s.

Mr. Terry's first real estate venture was finding a family for a house just built in the Brockton neighborhood. He handled this venture successfully, and, when with the help of white friends, he turned the major deal by which he acquired an eight-family house on

Newberry Street, Terry was on his way up the ladder of fortune.

Success attended his other real estate ventures and in September, 1923, a New York firm of certified public accountants issued an authorized statement to the effect that their investigation showed that Terry's properties in Brockton and New York were worth at least \$1,000,000, and after this date he continued to acquire additional real estate.

In Brockton, Mr. Terry owned large holdings and his tenants and employees were all white. He entered the New York field in 1917, taking an interest in the Peyton properties in 141st and 142nd Streets, between Lenox and Seventh Avenues. He expanded his Harlem holdings, adding apart-

ment houses. A row of houses in West 141st Street; properties in West 129th, 131st, 139th, 142nd Streets, and in Seventh Avenue, No. 2380, where his palatial offices were located, were only a few of the parcels which constituted the real estate empire of Watt Terry of yesterday. His tenants and employees in Harlem were all Negroes.

He lived in a town house in Brockton, in the exclusive residential district on Belmont Avenue adjoining the home of the late Governor William L. Douglass, of Massachusetts; and during the summer months he, his wife and adopted daughter, lived at the waterfront at Oak Bluffs. In New York his home is in the Convent Avenue section.

Watt Terry Not Evicted

Watt Terry, prominent realtor in New York and Massachusetts, was not evicted from his offices at 2380 Seventh Avenue, last Wednesday, according to a story published in The Amsterdam News. The furniture of the Terry Holding Company, with which Mr. Terry is said to be connected, was set on the sidewalk by Marshal Michael J. McEnany.

Wife Battles Frost Riches

His White Relatives Seek to Set Aside San Domingo Marriage

NEW YORK.—The hand of white supremacy, guided by American sugar interests in Santo Domingo, came into view here last week, when Surrogate J. A. Foley closed another chapter in the Frost will case.

Arthur W. Frost, member of a wealthy white Long Island family, went to Santo Domingo in 1907, bought a large sugar plantation, decided to spend the rest of his days there, made, leaving everything to his wife and child.

When the case is resumed sometime in February or early March, Mrs. Frost's counsel will send for witnesses from Santo Domingo, use translations of documents, to prove that the 1922 will was destroyed.

However, they need only to prove that Mr. Frost, who was 70 when he died, was of sound mind when he married Mrs. Frost, in order to insure her getting her dower rights. Proving this will mean that the 1922 will is of no effect.

Counsel for Mrs. Frost told the AFRO that they believe they will have no trouble proving that Frost was of sound mind when he married, but intimated that American Sugar interests are alarmed at the possibilities of the outcome of the case.

White Prestige
It was pointed out that Mrs. Frost, having attained the status of a legal wife, recognized by a United States Court, might injure white prestige in the island, where a marriage between white and black is all right, but its recognition by a United States Court, an entirely different matter.

Mrs. Frost has been unable to attend any of the hearings on the case, because she is too poor to make the trip from Santo Domingo, it was said.

Will Destroyed
Mrs. Frost's counsel contends that this will, which Mr. Frost sent for in November, 1936, was destroyed by him, and a new will

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Oklahoma

TWO 'WIDOWS' CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW FREED-CITY COUNCIL CHARGED WITH IN FIGHT FOR MEN TO DEMAND RETURN OF AL- CONSPIRACY TO WREST RICH HUGE ESTATE LOTMENTS FROM U. S. COURT OIL HOLDINGS FROM NEGROES

Each Claims to Be Legal
Heir of Freedman Who
Left \$100,000

WEWOKA, Okla.—A bitter fight for the \$100,000 estate left by Peter Lincoln, wealthy Seminole freedman who died several weeks ago, will be staged here between two women, each claiming to be Lincoln's widow, it was made known here this week.

When the case is called in the latter part of this month, wife No. 1, Mrs. Sarah Beashear Lincoln of Seminole, and wife No. 2, Mrs. Besie J. Sandridge Lincoln of Tulsa, each will tell the court that she was the lawful wife, and thus the legal heir of the rich freedman. The will left the bulk of the estate to Mrs. Sarah Beashear Lincoln.

Claims Will Is Illegal
Mrs. Sandridge Lincoln who asserts that she married Mr. Lincoln on September 13, 1934, claims that the will probated on December 11, 1936, was made at a time when Lincoln's mind and body were enfeebled by disease and age and after he was totally blind and incapable of remembering that she was legally married to her. He was incompetent, she says, of making a will.

She further says that after her marriage to Lincoln, certain persons caused him to change his residence for the purpose of separating her from her husband.

Other claimants to the estate claim that Mrs. Sandridge Lincoln's marriage to Lincoln was not legal. Other heirs are Houston Lincoln, son; George Lincoln, son; Sylvia Clark.

Black sea patch
6-26-37
Ardmore Conference Is Spearhead of Movement To
Reclaim Valuable Mineral Wealth
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Charge Theft Made During Period of
Disfranchisement

ARDMORE, Okla., June 22.—More than 300 Chickasaw and Choctaw freedmen meeting here last week under the call of J. C. Kemp, determined to employ counsel and go into the United States Court of Claims, demanding the return of millions of dollars in land allegedly filched from them in violation of the Atoka Agreement, an Indian treaty.

Approximately 450,000 acres of land, covering the richest mineral territory in Oklahoma, is the coveted goal of the claimants, and many of the delegates who attended the meeting held at the Mt. Zion Baptist church came from as far away as California, Tennessee and Michigan.

The Atoka agreement, upon which much stress is placed, was a treaty entered into by the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations by terms of which the Commission for the Five Civilized Tribes were required to make a correct roll of the freedmen and their descendants entitled to rights or benefits under former treaties. The agreement also provided that 40 acres of land should be allotted to each freedman which he would have the right to hold until his rights in full had been determined by congress.

Allotments were due for 10,659 Choctaw and Chickasaw freedmen at the time of the signing of the Atoka Agreement, according to Rev. Kemp.

Kemp and his followers held that in 1908, at a time when the freedmen were disfranchised in the new State of Oklahoma, Congress, thru representations made by Oklahoma representatives, removed restrictions on their land, and the next year their property was illegally placed on the tax rolls.

Through a system of guardians, appointed by county courts, freedmen were filched out of their birth-

right, say the claimants, and they hope to go into the Court of Claims and prove that Congress, under the Atoka Agreement, did not have the right to remove restrictions and allow the State of Oklahoma to place their property on the tax rolls before determining the full allotment rights of Choctaw and Chickasaw freedmen.

A committee clothed with power to act was named to secure counsel and prepare data and facts to be presented later by the convention. Their names follow: J. C. Kemp, Ardmore; Mrs. W. H. Hamilton, Berwyn; Mrs. Jennie Risten, Ardmore; N. S. Stevenson, Hennipen; Prof. Ira D. Hall, Colbert; Rev. J. W. Johnson, Oklahoma City; E. C. Williams, Hennipen.

Capp Jefferson Says Paving Tax Liens Form Wedge
To Separate Citizens From Property

Citizens Become Alert To Danger

Fiery charges alleging that the city government had entered into a conspiracy with major oil companies to defraud Negro property owners in the Fair Ground area out of their property through foreclosure on past due paving taxes, were made before the City Council Tuesday morning by Capp Jefferson, real estate dealer, and pioneer citizen.

While the council failed to take any action regarding the request of Jefferson that the municipal government retire as parties to a suit filed against Negro property owners, the attack of Jefferson has awakened the Negro citizens to what apparently is an attempt to steal a large block of lots out in a section where rich oil deposits have been reported.

Paving was arbitrarily placed in this section by the city and without the consent of the property owners, according to Jefferson, who alleges that in the suit filed the city instead of being the plaintiff should be the defendant.

Here is the complete text of the petition filed by Jefferson before the city council:

"Comes now, Capp Jefferson (acting in the capacity of proxy, for Lula Wade, and Thelma Bozeman, taxpayers in Oklahoma County, State of Oklahoma) and others similarly situated, on this the 12th day of October 1937, and do hereby petition the Mayor and City Council of Oklahoma City, Okla., to withdraw from Case No. 64348 in the county and state of Oklahoma, wherein the said City of Oklahoma City is joint Plaintiff with ex rel Charles R. Lane in a foreclosure of tax lien, against the said Lula Wade and Thelma Bozeman and others (similarly situated) in causes number 23-68 and 137 respectively in the above number case 94348 in Oklahoma county district court, for the following reasons, to wit:

(1) We do not believe that the suit is brought in good faith, on the part of the Plaintiffs seeking redress in the District Court in and for Oklahoma County, State of Oklahoma, but that said Plaintiffs are acting at the will and in the instance of oil companies, who are doubtless financing this suit to defraud the defendants out of their valuable property because said defendants fail to lease to said oil companies at price fixed by the field agents of said oil companies. (2) And for the further reason, we hold that the 1923 session laws, Section 29, Chapter 173, together with the 1931 Session Laws 6280 to 6292 both inclusive dealing with the way and manner that Special Improvements may be made, is unconstitutional, in that it permits cities of populations exceeding 70 thousand, to improve its boulevards, streets, lanes and alleys, by grading and regrading, paving and repaving, and otherwise improving said boulevards, streets, lanes and alleys, without the consent of the property owners, and by assessing the benefits of property thus improved by its nearness to the improvement on a square feet basis, without regard to the intrinsic value of the respective properties; but rather placing the improved property and vacant property on equal square feet basis, and permitting the same in case of default payments on the improvements for 12 months to be sold to satisfy their improvement liens.

"(3) We further hold that the same is unconstitutional, in that even though a bond issued by a city authorized to issue bonds, is lien against the entire assets of the city until the same is paid and discharged, it permits the city to shift its responsibilities against its entire assets, and join with the holder of the bond or bonds as the case wherein it should be defendant, the bonds in open market wherein said burden is placed on the property bonds were offered for sale, but owners adjacent to the improve-ment that these bonds were recently acquired by said bondholder after the discovery of oil near the property are joint beneficiaries with the public of the sole purpose of defrauding these taxpayers out of their property without just consideration for the same."

We Can't Believe This

Serious indeed are the charges made by Mr. Capp Jefferson when he alleges that the city government, following arbitrarily laying pavement in the Fair Grounds area, without the consent or agreement of the Negro property owners, is now joined as party in suits to oust these property owners from their property. *Search*

Especially does this charge carry suspicious earmarks when it is known that quite recently oil in paving quantities has been discovered in this area. The Jefferson charges are additionally informative when he states that the tax liens are now in the hands of persons who recently acquired them. *10-16-37*

Negro voters should carefully sift these charges to determine whether or not there is any foundation of truth in them. If it is discovered that members of the city council have wilfully and premeditatedly entered such conspiracy as suggested in the Jefferson charges the council members should meet with opposition at the polls in the next election.

Negroes have too much of a struggle to acquire property. If our city council has become calloused and indifferent as to the rights of the Negro property owners, and to the extent as suggested in the Jefferson petition, every one of the 20,000 Negro citizens in the city should be immediately apprised of this attitude.

Investigation should be made to discover whether white property owners, with paving liens upon their property, have been similarly moved against. This information is available and if it can be shown that this type of suit has been started only in the Fair Grounds area, very definite conclusions may be reached regarding the intent and purpose of such legal actions.

Effort is right now being made to change the form of city government and up to this point Negro taxpayers have been inclined to lend their aid to the managerial plan, but the Black Dispatch wants it distinctly understood here and now that no type of government is better than the men who administer it. If the present city council has joined in any such unholy program as alleged by Mr. Capp Jefferson, we say here and now that all Negroes should help to vote out of office such public officials, and it perhaps might not be a bad idea to change the form of government.

Of course what we have said in no wise means that we have made up our minds on this question. The matter has just been brought to our attention. The whole subject will require study to determine motives and background. What we suggest is an immediate alertness on the part of the Negro citizens. An attorney should immediately be employed to search the records and assemble such facts as suggested here. Let us know the truth, and then act upon the presentation of the records as they are.

Property - 1937

Pennsylvania

Lewis, Antique Dealer, Leaves \$100,000

VETERAN ART DEALER DIES IN 79TH YEAR

Mrs. King's parents were the owners of the first colored hotel in Atlantic City—the Clinton Cottage which was operated until 1910.

PHILADELPHIA — An estate, valued at \$100,000, accumulated over a period of forty-three years as a dealer in antiques and paintings, was left by Lewis King, 79, who died after a brief illness on March 30.

The estate is being administered by his widow's kin, W. R. Wilson and Nellie Holland, also Raymond Pace Alexander, attorney.

Retired in 1925

Mr. King came to Philadelphia from Florida in 1882 and began business on a small scale at 928-930 Pine Street. He retired from business in 1925. At the time of his retirement, he sold his building for \$51,000 and his antique furnishings for \$21,000.

He was considered an expert in the field of antiques, especially furniture, rare and old musical instruments, and paintings. When he first came to the city, Mr. Lewis began working in service with some of the State's wealthiest families.

The young man studied art and antique furniture under one of his employers, who was in this business. He later took over the business upon his employer's death.

Married Bishop's Daughter

Among the survivors are: widow, Mrs. Mary A. King, whom he married in 1932; daughter, Mrs. Helen K. Downing, wife of Lylburn Downing, Roanoke, Va.

Mr. Lewis's first wife was Nancy W. Clinton, daughter of the late AME Bishop J. J. Clinton. Her parents were the owners of the first colored hotel in Atlantic City, the Clinton Cottage, which was operated until 1910.

Estate of \$100,000 Is Left by Philadelphia Antique Expert

PHILADELPHIA, April 14.—Philadelphia lost one of its most prominent figures when the very well-known and successful dealer in antiques and paintings, Lewis King, late of 928-930 Pine street, died on March 30, after a brief illness. Mr. King was considered by the leading business men in the city and by the best auction houses as an expert in the field of antiques, especially antique furniture, rare and old musical instruments and rare paintings.

Mr. King came to Philadelphia in 1882 from Florida. He began working in service with some of the wealthiest of Pennsylvania families, and studied art and antique furniture under one of his employers, who was in this business and later took over his business at his employer's death.

He operated one of the best furniture and instrument houses in Philadelphia at 928-930 Pine street, which he began on a small scale in 1882 and ended in 1925, when he retired from business. At the time of his retirement, he sold his building for \$51,000 and his antique furnishings for \$21,000. At the time of his death Mr. King was 79 years of age. He left to survive him, a widow, Mrs. Mary A. King, whom he married in 1932, and his daughter, Helene King Downing, wife of the prominent and successful physician, Dr. Lylburn Downing, of Roanoke, Va.

His estate in the amount of \$100,000 is being administered by his attorney, Raymond Pace Alexander, and by his widow's kin, W. R. Wilson and Nellie Holland, who, along with Mr. Alexander are acting as administrators.

The deceased's first wife was Nancy W. Clinton, who was the daughter of the later Bishop J. J. Clinton, one of the leaders and great figures of the A. M. E. Zion Church. The first

Property - 1937

Texas.

Negro Texan Owns 8,000-Acre Farm

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 31.—

(ANP) — Charles E. Hall, who prepared an exhibit and represented the Bureau of the Census at the Texas Centennial Exposition, tells of a prosperous Negro farmer, John Wallace, in Mitchell county, Texas, who, according to "The Cattleman," published in Fort Worth, Texas, owns without a lien, mortgage or past due tax over 8,000 acres of land, and did not receive government aid in any form during the depression, nor did he sign waivers on his cotton crop. It should be noted in this connection that 8,000 acres is equivalent to a tract of land one mile wide and twelve and a half miles long.

Mr. Wallace, who is 80 years old, has been a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association for 30 years, and occasionally attends its conventions. Five to six hundred good white-faced cattle are on his grass land. Twelve hundred of his acres are planted to cotton and feed each year. His ranch home of eight rooms is modern in every respect, and his barns, lots, and corrals are of the best.

Mr. Wallace has four children, three girls and one boy. Two of the girls have received B. A. degrees from colleges in Texas and have married professors, and with them are teaching in Texas colleges. The third daughter with a B. A. degree, has a responsible position in the school system of Colorado and received her M. A. degree in June from Chicago university. The son, Carson Wallace, 45 years of age, also college-educated, looks after the Wallace cattle interests, three and a half miles from Loraine, Mitchell county, Texas.

Slaves' Offspring Get Their Own Land

DALLAS, Tex. (P)—Twenty-three families of Negroes whose grandfathers came as slaves into east Texas, have moved into all-tilt houses on fertile farms which they will own.